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Soledad Brothers

SAN FRANCISCO—A Superior Court judge has ruled that slain black militant George Jackson must be presumed innocent in the January 1970 slaying of a Soledad state prison guard.

Judge S. Lee Vavuris said for the record that in the United States a man is presumed innocent unless proven guilty beyond any reasonable doubt and moral certainty.

Since no evidence was presented against him, the judge said, "the presumption of innocence of George Jackson still stands."

Vavuris announced his decision at a pretrial hearing for Fleeta Drumgo, 26, and John Clutchette, 28, who are scheduled to stand trial Monday for the slaying of the prison guard. The defendants have become known as the Soledad Brothers.